

## CLAIMS

I claim:

1        1.    A covered animal feeder with mounting brackets,  
2 comprising:

3        a container having a front wall, a back wall, a bottom  
4 wall, two sidewalls joined to form a box with an open top, the  
5 front wall having at least one opening defined therein through  
6 which an animal can retrieve animal feed positioned within the  
7 container;

8        a cover pivotally attached to the container and closing the  
9 open top of the container when in a closed position;

10       at least one mounting bracket secured to the back wall of  
11 the container;

12       wherein the container is adapted for mounting to a  
13 livestock fence by sliding said at least one mounting bracket  
14 onto a top rail of the livestock fence, so that animal feed can  
15 be loaded into said container by pivoting the cover to an open  
16 position and inserting animal feed through the open top into the  
17 container.

1        2.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein the  
2 bottom wall of said container is sloped downward from the back  
3 wall to the front wall, whereby animal feed loaded in said  
4 container slides toward the at least one opening in the front  
5 wall.

1        3.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 container is constructed of a material from the group consisting  
3 of plastic, metal and rubber.

1        4.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising at least one upper padlock flange extending from said  
3 cover, and at least one lower padlock flange extending from said  
4 container, each of the upper and lower padlock flanges having an  
5 aperture adapted to receive an arm member of a padlock.

1        5.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising:

3        a first set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to the back  
4 wall and the cover;

5        a second set of opposing hinge knuckles attached to the  
6 front wall and the cover; and

7        at least one hinge pin, whereby the cover optionally pivots  
8 on the back wall or the front wall by placement of the hinge pin  
9 through the first or second set of knuckles, respectively.

1        6.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, further  
2 comprising a side dish extending from one of said two sidewalls  
3 of said container.

1        7.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 at least one mounting bracket is constructed of a material from  
3 the group consisting of plastic and metal.

1        8.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 container is dimensioned and configured to receive a bale of  
3 hay.

1        9.    The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein said  
2 at least one opening comprises three openings in the front wall,  
3 each of said openings having a width of about seven inches.

1        10.   The animal feeder according to claim 1, wherein each  
2 of said at least one mounting bracket has an inverted "J" shape  
3 with a distal leg and a proximal leg opposing the distal leg,  
4 the proximal leg being attached to the back wall.